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Allon will meet Guiringaud

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (AFP) — Foreign Minister Yigal Allon today confirmed he would hold talks in Brussels next week with his French opposite number Louis de Guiringaud. Mr. Allon, taking part in a meeting at a Negev desert kibbutz, told an Israeli Radio correspondent that the first subject he would take up with Mr. de Guiringaud was the release by a French court of Palestinian activist Abu Dawud. Mr. Dawud was accused by Israel of masterminding the 1972 Munich olympics attack. According to the correspondent, Mr. Allon stressed that he looked forward to normalising relations with France, but doubted that the talks in Brussels would have any real effect.

Assuming talks to Kaunda, Nyerere

IBAR, Feb. 5 (R) — Mr. Andrew Young, President's key man on African affairs, today listened to from black African presidents on a possible Ameloria in the Rhodesia dispute. President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia told reporters that he had suggested black American ambassador to the United Nations U.S. intervention of a peaceful kind should be at avoiding unnecessary bloodshed. Mr. Young so had talks with President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe. Mr. Young said that the Rhodesia "front-line" states party involved in the Rhodesia dispute. However, Mr. Young does not intend to visit the rebel British colony. State Department said last night that the U.S. government has no intention at present of sending an emissary to Rhodesia.

June 2, Number 379

On M.E. peace moves King Hussein due in Amman for talks

Feb. 5 (R) — His Majesty King Hussein is due to return to Amman tomorrow on a one-day visit. The King is expected to meet with President Assad on the Middle East situation and bilateral relations. During the visit, the King will discuss the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations with the President. The King is expected to meet with President Assad on the Middle East situation and bilateral relations. The King is expected to meet with President Assad on the Middle East situation and bilateral relations. The King is expected to meet with President Assad on the Middle East situation and bilateral relations.

"Confrontation summit" expected in mid-March

AMMAN, Feb. 5 (R) — A mini-summit conference grouping the front-line Arab states and the Palestinians is expected to be held in Damascus in mid-March, well-informed sources said here today. Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will take part in the projected conference, to precede the Geneva Middle East peace talks, the sources added. Originally the conference was expected to be held in the middle of this month but the sources said it was postponed until next month because of the diplomatic activity in the Middle East in February.



INROAD INTO AFRICA? — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (left), looks on as Ivory Coast President Houphouët-Boigny signs the joint communique at the end of their meeting in Geneva Friday.

Allon plays down link between Rabin's meeting with Ivory Coast president and M.E. mediation efforts

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said today Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met Ivory Coast President Houphouët-Boigny yesterday to help mend relations with Africa. Mr. Allon told reporters the three-hour meeting was "part of Israel's efforts to renew its former close and warm relations with Africa and the talks were a most important step in that direction." His remarks were seen as reinforcing comments by Mr. Rabin who said on television yesterday the talks were aimed at restoring diplomatic ties severed by African nations after the 1973 Middle East war. Mr. Rabin denied that President Houphouët-Boigny was mediating in the Arab-Israeli dispute though. He said there had been an exchange on the Middle East situation. Observers here nevertheless believe the meeting was part of a renewed diplomatic effort to overcome differences on reconvening the Geneva Middle East Peace Conference and reach a new settlement.

He meets Arafat Waldheim: This is the last chance for peace

DAMASCUS, Feb. 5 (R) — United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim tonight described efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East as a last chance. "This is the last chance we have. If we fail the danger of a military confrontation will be very near," Dr. Waldheim said after a two-and-a-half hour meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad. The U.N. chief, who is visiting Arab countries to explore the prospects of reconvening the Geneva Middle East conference, later met Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Damascus. He told a news conference that his talks with President Assad were "very frank and very informative, and helped me to understand better the Syrian government's stand." His discussion covered the possibility of resuming the Geneva conference and ways of achieving a Middle East settlement, he added.

Ethiopia will step up socialist programme

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 5 (R) — The bloody power struggle among Ethiopia's military rulers seemed likely today to lead to a new, hard-line attitude in opposition and an accelerated programme of uncompromising socialism. Lt-Col. Mengistu Haile-Mariam, who emerged as victor from the upheaval with his leadership of the country reinforced, told a huge rally yesterday he would arm the people to protect the revolution. He said he would also push for the implementation of a "national democratic revolution" — a blueprint for the nation's future which has been gathering dust since it was issued by him last April. Col. Mengistu, First Vice Chairman of the Dergue, the ruling military council, is the formal leader of Ethiopia as well as its actual head, following the death of the head of state, Brig-Gen. Teferi Bante, on Thursday. After a gun-battle around the Dergue's headquarters on Thursday the official radio announced that Gen. Teferi and six other members of the council had been executed for attempting a coup against the revolution. The seven reported executed were known to have tried to limit the powers of Col. Mengistu, who had effectively led the Dergue since 1974. Addis Ababa has been calm since the shooting. But informants said a series of arrests had begun. One of those reported to have been detained is the acting Information Minister, Ato Tadesse Gebre-Heywor. While Col. Mengistu works on "the creation of a workers' party" — his number two is busy arming the people. Lt-Col. Atanfu Abete, the Dergue's Second Vice Chairman, who is reported to have had bitter differences with Col. Mengistu, left here today for southwest Ethiopia to set up new units of the people's militia he has been establishing throughout the country. Col. Atanfu was on a similar trip when the palace battle took place and returned only yesterday. Diplomatic envoys here of the Soviet Union, China, Cuba, Hungary and East Germany conveyed messages of support today to Col. Mengistu.

Parents of 400 schoolchildren not allowed into Botswana

SALISBURY, Feb. 5 (AFP) — Botswana authorities today barred 140 Rhodesian African parents from entering the country to see their children, allegedly abducted from Rhodesia, a government spokesman said here. They refused to allow eight buses carrying the parents into Botswana, saying they did not have enough Botswana currency to pay the road levy, the spokesman said. All the parents are now being accommodated at Plumtree, a Rhodesian border town, and attempts will be made again tomorrow to get the buses across the border, the spokesman said. A total of 400 school students — 230 boys and 170 girls — were reportedly taken to Botswana from the Manama mission school at gunpoint by guerrillas last Sunday night. Botswana authorities have alleged that the students were fleeing from harassment by Rhodesian security forces and some of the students, who have been spoken to by newsmen in Francistown, Botswana, said they crossed the border of their own free will to join Rhodesian nationalist leader Joshua Nkomo's "freedom fighters".

Unified Egypto-Syrian command to coordinate peace offensive

CAIRO, Feb. 5 (AFP) — The hasty formation of a unified Egyptian-Syrian policy-making command announced yesterday was apparently spurred by the current Middle East tour of United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. The plan for the unified command was announced last December, but never mentioned again until yesterday. At the time observers thought the plan would be as short-lived as an Egyptian-Syrian "permanent" coordination committee that only met once, and a cooperation agreement that died after one month. Dr. Waldheim arrived here three days ago and Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam unexpectedly flew in the next day to confer with President Anwar Sadat. As Dr. Waldheim was landing in Damascus the following day, Egypt and Syria announced the composition of the unified command grouping the two presidents, their deputies, the two countries' premiers and foreign and defence ministers. Egypt and Syria apparently wanted to coordinate their attitude to reconvening the Geneva conference before Dr. Waldheim conferred on that thorny subject with Israel and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat during the secretary general's current tour. The goal of the unified command was announced in December to be to prepare for the union of the two countries, but that is a long-range project, according to a senior Egyptian official. The immediate goal seemed to be to establish a unified viewpoint concerning Palestinian representation at the Geneva talks. Until now, Syria has advocated sending a single Arab delegation to Geneva including the Palestinians, while Egypt has contended that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should have a delegation of its own to keep its demands from being stifled. Arab diplomats here believe the two governments will finally agree on sending a single delegation to Geneva. The underlying advantage to Syria of a unified command will be to obtain Egyptian support for Syrian efforts to pacify Lebanon in the wake of the civil war, observers said. Syrian leaders are known to be skeptical about chances of resuming the Geneva conference in the near future. Advantages for Egypt will be the opportunity to seek greater Syrian flexibility concerning the Geneva conference, and to draw Syria away from Soviet influence. The unified command also provides for resumed military cooperation, suspended when Egypt withdrew its MIG fighter planes from Syria in October 1975. Egypt probably hopes it will be able to obtain Soviet spare parts from the Syrian armed forces. Egyptian leaders have repeatedly pointed out that the Soviet Union cut off their supply of weapons and parts more than three years ago, while amply supplying Syria. Arab diplomats here believe the talks will be the first since the foreign ministers of Egypt and the Soviet Union met in Bulgaria late last year. Soviet newspapers have attacked President Sadat's government over the food riots. The president has accused Communists of inciting them and Moscow of opposing his liberalisation policies. He added as other examples of "high treason" the question of Palestine, Sinai, talks with Israelis at "kilometre 101" after the 1973 war and the "massing of your armies in the face of Libyan villages and oases."

Sadat ready to recognise "the fact of Israel"

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (AFP) — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is ready to sign a "peace agreement" which would recognise "the fact of Israel." "This is something that no Arab leader has ever said," the Egyptian chief of state said in an interview with New York's Sunday magazine Parade. Claiming that "never before have the prospects for peace been better," between Israel and its Arab neighbours, the Egyptian president called on the region "not to lose this chance." President Sadat also appealed to President Jimmy Carter to pay heed to his call. "I realize the man has just come into office and I don't want to bury him before he has a chance to acquaint himself with our situation," he said. But it was "of the utmost importance" that he should talk face to face with the United States president, Mr. Sadat said. The United States was "essential to the peace process here," the Egyptian president said. He stressed that he was not asking Washington "to drop its special relation with Israel," but he called for better relations between his country and the United States. The Egyptian leader paid tribute to the role played by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in previous negotiations. "Both my country and Israel needed someone we could trust because, understandably, neither of us had any trust in the other. Henry Kissinger turned out to be that man," he said. Mr. Sadat said that he would have preferred to negotiate with former Israeli Premier Mrs. Golda Meir rather than with Premier Yitzhak Rabin, whose government, he said, was weak and feared peace. "Even though Mrs. Meir is a hawk, she at least has guts... she has all the guts in Israel," he said.

USSR, Egypt to hold talks next week

CAIRO, Feb. 5 (R) — Egypt and the Soviet Union, which President Anwar Sadat has indirectly blamed for Egyptian food riots last month, will hold talks next week, the Middle East News Agency reported today. The discussions, between Foreign Ministry officials of both countries, are expected to touch on a revival of the Middle East peace conference in Geneva, observers said. The talks will be the first since the foreign ministers of Egypt and the Soviet Union met in Bulgaria late last year. Soviet newspapers have attacked President Sadat's government over the food riots. The president has accused Communists of inciting them and Moscow of opposing his liberalisation policies. He added as other examples of "high treason" the question of Palestine, Sinai, talks with Israelis at "kilometre 101" after the 1973 war and the "massing of your armies in the face of Libyan villages and oases."

Former Egyptian V.P. lambasts Sadat's proposed law and order legislation

CAIRO, Feb. 5 (R) — Former Egyptian Vice President Kamal al-Din Hussein has labelled unconstitutional President Anwar Sadat's proposed legislation to keep law and order which is to be put before voters on Thursday, the influential newspaper Al Gomhouria reported today. President Sadat announced two days ago he was invoking his constitutional rights in issuing orders stipulating severe punishment for demonstrators, saboteurs and rioters, and calling for the plebiscite to decide on them. The proposals follow last month's bloody demonstrations over moves to raise prices of food and fuel. Seventy-nine people were killed and about 80 injured. Mr. Hussein, vice-president under the late President Nasser, sent a cable to his former colleague President Sadat saying: "The bad policy of your government and the foolish policies of previous governments are responsible for the events of January 18 and 19." Al Gomhouria said. "Instead of punishing your government for dereliction and waiting for the verdict of the judiciary on instigators of sabotage... you punished the people and the People's Assembly." He said the measures went against all constitutional values. Al Gomhouria said President Sadat had referred Mr. Hussein's cable to the People's Assembly.

Arctic spell still grips east U.S.

YORK, Feb. 5 (R) — Snow today fell for the 48th consecutive day on the paralysed New York State city, where thousands of people are thought to be dead in their homes. President Carter reacted by declaring the paralysed area a major disaster area, making it eligible for federal aid. The Presidential order, which will provide federal help for the stricken area, also applied to a snowbound Michigan. Heavy troops, national guardsmen and municipal workers struggled to clear drifts as high as 10 metres (30 feet) brought on by the arctic weather. At least 22 people have died in Buffalo and an undetermined number are believed unable to leave their homes more than a week after a savage blizzard virtually wiped the area. A threat of near-blizzard conditions for this week ended, however. A low-pressure centre believed moving towards Buffalo was later expected to skirt the city region. The coldest winter of the century continued to grip the eastern half of the United States, snow warnings issued in seven states. Sub-freezing temperatures were expected tonight in the growing northern Florida, where the crop has already suffered severe frost damage. In the far west, farmers suffering from a drought promised rain approaching from the Pacific.

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During his coming tour Genscher will offer West German help toward Mideast settlement



WEST GERMAN COOPERATION - His Highness Crown Prince Hassan and W. German Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher sign a cooperation agreement between the two countries Feb. 15, 1977. Mr. Genscher will start his Middle East tour on Tuesday evening.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher will offer West German help towards achieving a Middle East settlement in a five-day visit to Syria, Jordan and Iraq next week.

Official sources said here that Herr Genscher was departing on any mission but wanted to see the views of the three "contending states" during his visit, beginning in Damascus Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry officials do not rule out the possibility of a meeting in Cairo at the next week between the secretary and United States Secretary General Kissinger, who is also visiting the region.

Germany, like its partner, the European Economic Community, wants to see the East peace conference reconvened as soon as possible with the aim of settling an overall settlement in the region.

Germany enjoys excellent relations with Israel, which Herr Genscher visited last year, but supports the right of Palesti-

nians in areas occupied by Israel to self-determination.

During the visit to Amman, Herr Genscher plans to visit the East Bank of the River Jordan. He declined to tour the Israeli-occupied West Bank during his visit to Israel last year.

Officials said West Germany, presently a member of the U.N. Security Council, shared Dr. Waldheim's view that the reconvening of the Geneva conference which last met in December 1973 was the best chance of attaining a settlement.

But Bonn does not underestimate the difficulties of settling the question of Palestinian representation at Geneva, since Israel refuses to accept the presence there of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The West German government also fully backs Israel's insistence on the territorial integrity and independence of all states in the region being preserved.

Herr Genscher and his 100-strong delegation, who arrive in Damascus on Tuesday eve-

ning, will also discuss economic links between West Germany and the three Arab states. They would like to find ways of improving the balance of trade.

West German economic team will arrive Thursday

AMMAN (JNA). — A 20-member West German economic delegation will arrive here Thursday for economic talks with officials at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and the National Planning Council.

The talks will centre on the possibility for West Germany to finance and implement a number of industrial projects included in the five year development plan.

The delegation is composed of West German industrialists and businessmen. This will be the first delegation, representing the West German private sector, to visit Jordan.

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — An economic Danish delegation, Monday will arrive here on a short visit for talks with Ministry of Industry and Commerce officials on the possibilities for Danish firms to finance and implement a number of projects, and in particular to discuss the supply of cold stores to the Aqaba Port Authority.

* AMMAN. — A Syrian supply delegation is due to arrive here Monday to discuss bilateral cooperation in the supply field, in particular the construction of grain silos in Jordan.

* AMMAN. — The Municipal and Rural Credit Fund Saturday approved a JD 4,000 grant to the Anjara municipality in Irbid governorate for the asphaltation of streets in the town.

* AMMAN. — A delegation from the Japanese Middle East Economic Cooperation Centre will arrive here Friday on a five-day visit for talks with officials on ways to boost economic relations between Jordan and Japan.

* AMMAN. — A delegation from the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Union, Saturday morning left for Tripoli, Libya, to attend the five-day meeting of the Council of Arab Chambers of Commerce Union due to start there Sunday.

* AMMAN. — The Higher Council of the Arab Chemists Union will hold its extraordinary session here in July at the invitation of the Chemistry Graduates League of the University of Jordan.

* AMMAN. — The newly appointed Ambassador to Nationalist China, Mr. Riyad Sabri, Saturday presented his letters of credence to the Chinese President.

* AMMAN. — Director General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) will arrive in Amman on Feb. 9 for talks with officials of the ministry of labour.

* AMMAN. — Assistant Secretary General of the Arab League, arrived in Amman for talks with Jordanian officials.

Exports to South Arabia increased by 77%

AMMAN (JNA). — Figures released by the External Trade Section at the Statistics Department showed that Jordan's exports to Saudi Arabia increased by 77 per cent during last September over the same month of 1975.

Jordan's imports from Saudi Arabia increased by 48 per cent during September 1976 over September 1975.

Main exports to Saudi Arabia

included fruits, plastics, medicines, cigarettes, paints, ready-made clothing, while crude oil topped Jordan's import list from Saudi Arabia.

Figures showed that Jordan's exports to Iraq increased by two per cent during September 1976 over the same month of 1975, while imports increased by 165 per cent during the said period.

Main exports to Iraq included medicines, marble paper, cloth and ready-made clothing while Jordan's imports from Iraq included palm dates and lubrication oils.

Jordan, Syria discuss agricultural regulations

DAMASCUS (JNA). — Meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Agricultural Committee, specialised in agricultural marketing, pastures, the desert, and agricultural planning and statistics, will start here Sunday.

Dr. Mohammad Al Lobani, Manager of Jordan's Association for Agricultural Marketing, announced that the committee will discuss the possibility of unifying agricultural laws and regulations in both countries and that the results will be submitted to the ministers of agriculture in both countries who will meet in March to review the findings of the joint agricultural committee.

Mr. Al Lobani arrived here Saturday leading his country's delegation to the meeting.

Economic talks with Egypt to start Feb. 14

AMMAN (JNA). — Economic talks with Egypt will start in Cairo Feb. 14 official sources announced here Saturday.

The two-day talks will aim at boosting bilateral economic cooperation and increasing bilateral trade exchange, the sources said.

The Minister of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Najmuddin Al Dalaj, will head Jordan's delegation in these talks, while Egypt will be represented by his counterpart Mr. Zakaria T. Abdul Fattah.

Jordan's main exports to Egypt are liquid batteries, lead and some textile industries. Its imports from Egypt is mainly rice, cotton and paper.

Imports from Egypt totalled JD 6.5 million while exports totalled JD 1 million.

Badran visits Irbid, Yarmouk University



Premier Mudar Badran is seen with Minister of Education Abdul Salam Majali (5th from left) and Yarmouk University President Dr. Adnan Badran (4th from left) during the prime minister's visit to the university Saturday.

IRBID (JNA). — The Prime Minister, Mr. Mudar Badran, and the Minister of Education, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, Saturday afternoon paid a visit to Yarmouk University where they inspected the different departments and establishments.

Upon arrival they were received by the President of the university, Dr. Adnan Badran,

Irbid governor, the mayor and a number of high ranking employees of the governorate.

The Prime Minister was briefed by Dr. Badran on the work plans for the university's permanent location on which construction will be started towards the end of 1977. Dr. Badran said that the complete plans of the university were ready and that out of the one-hundred-kms five lines of trees, which would form a belt surrounding the buildings of the university, 15,000 trees had already been planted.

Following that the premier inspected the different buildings of the university, the departments of science, arts and the laboratories. He also visited the library which now includes 5,000 books.

During his inspection tour, the Prime Minister stressed the fact that first priority should be given to the hospital of the university which will provide the necessary medical service for the citizens of the area.

After his visit to the univer-

sity, Mr. Badran presided over a meeting at the directorate of education in Irbid and discussed with those present the duties and sacred role of the teacher.

He also visited Princess Basma Hospital and said that medical service at the hospital should be expanded and that two new floors be added to insure that.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

U.K. sterling	573.0	579.0
U.S. dollar	333.0	335.0
German mark	138.0	138.4
French franc	67.2	67.5
Swiss franc	132.6	133.3
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.9	38.1
Saudi riyal	94.6	94.8
Lebanese pound	108.0	111.0
Syrian pound	81.6	82.5
Iraqi dinar	940.0	945.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1150.0	1157.0
Egyptian pound	470.0	480.0
Libyan dinar	750.0	760.0
UAE dirham	85.0	86.0

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Soviet prices slashed, for things people don't want

MOSCOW, (CSM). -- The fur-hatted, winter-overcoated crowd jostled and craned around the counter in Moscow's biggest store, GUM. Prices on some Soviet-made cassette tape recorders had just gone down.

Suddenly, with a sigh of relief, a man emerged from the melee, the new owner of a small "Yvesna" ("spring") model that cost him 165 roubles (\$22.75), a markdown of 17.5 per cent.

The scene highlights much about how the Soviet consumer is faring as 1977 gets under way. With loud fanfare, the government has lowered some prices. With much less fanfare, it has raised others. The resulting consumer picture is mixed, in a land where consumers traditionally take a back seat to heavy industry and military needs.

The marked-down tape recorder was of average quality. The much better reel-to-reel model on a nearby shelf showed a reduction of 200 roubles (\$270). And the reduced price on the Yvesna was still much more than the average Russian officially is reported to earn each month (146 roubles, or \$197.10).

A tour of Moscow shows that the items reduced (including refrigerators, light imitation-leather women's boots, a black and white model TV set, some silk fabrics (as much as 70 per cent higher), and clothing made to measure (about 30 per cent).

Although only about 10 per cent of Soviet citizens would use tailoring shops, those whose sizes differ in any way from the standard ones here often de-



For Soviet consumers, price changes mean most better-quality items are more expensive.

pend on them -- as do those who decide to get something a bit better than usual.

In addition, the consumer has been warned that taxi fares are to double April 1 to 25 cents per kilometre. This is still cheap by Western standards. Air fares will go up 20 per cent. Boat fares also will rise.

Several hours of price checking reveal just how high prices are here compared to the West, especially given lower average salaries.

Observers grant that a Soviet family that lives in a tiny apartment or in one room needs fewer possessions than an American family in a house or a spacious apartment. Some costs here are low -- rents, for instance. Health care is free.

Yet items that most Westerners take for granted still represent big outlays here. Soviet officials preceded the price change announcements by several days of public statements that prices here are much more stable than in the West, since "there can be no inflation" in the controlled Soviet economy.

They emphasized that prices of basic foods and other items would stay the same. And Nikolai Glushkov, chairman of the State Prices Com-

mittee, revealed that the government spends more money to keep meat and milk prices down than it admits to spending on defence. The subsidy: 19 billion roubles (\$2.5 billion). Yet Muscovites and foreigners who live here report that the only cheap meat contains bone and gristle. It varies widely in quality -- and shortages from the bad harvest in 1976 season continue. Thursdays are still mandatory "meatless days" in Moscow restaurants.

Good cuts of meat can cost about \$5 per kilogram. For people in service industries (teachers, nurses, etc.), who earn about \$130 a month, that can add up.

Of the items that have been reduced in Soviet shops, one young Muscovite sniffed: "They are the ones that no one wants." And there is some truth in his comment, though he was not completely right.

Only medium to poor quality vacuum cleaners were marked down (from \$62 to \$51). The top model was reduced only \$1.25 (from \$79.25 to \$78.00). Only the smallest refrigerators were lower (down from \$230 to \$216). Larger Seratov models, which are far more popular, are as high as \$450, with imports up to \$675.

U.S. Small-car sales dip slows

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CSM). car sales may be at an end. "This trend is not likely to go much further," asserts Henry Ford II, chairman of Ford Motor Company, "but neither is it likely to be reversed in the near future."

Small cars accounted for 52 per cent of industry sales in the 1975-model year. They slipped to about 48 per cent in 1976. In the first few months of the 1977-model year, which began in September, the small-car share of the market sank slightly more, to 47 per cent.

As a result of the decline, the carmakers were sent into a spin as they tried to adjust inventories to meet the unexpected consumer demand.

Manufacturers cut prices and offered rebates on some low-line cars so as to move them out of the showroom.

Because of the overall move towards larger-size cars, the auto industry has excess small-car capacity and insufficient capacity to maintain normal dealer stocks of mid-size and full-size models.

"Unless more consumers decide to buy small cars," predicts Mr. Ford, "total car sales will continue to be constrained next year by shortages of large cars."

Because of fuel-economy standards that begin to take effect with the 1978-model cars



Ford Pinto: Has the U.S. downturn in small-car sales halted?

next autumn, manufacturers are reluctant to convert small-car production capacity to larger-size cars to meet immediate market demands.

Federal law requires that the total car-production capacity of each manufacturer average out to 18 miles per gallon with the '78-model cars. If some cars provide poorer mileage on the road, a carmaker has to build a larger number of smaller cars to offset the effect of the lower-mileage cars.

"We cannot invest substantially in larger-car capacity that we will soon be unable to use," laments Mr. Ford.

"It is difficult to estimate how many car sales have been and will be lost because of this situation. But it is obvious that the depressing effect of

fuel-economy standards on car sales and industry employment will become increasingly serious as the federal fuel-economy requirement rises from 18 miles per gallon for the 1978-model year to 27.5 miles per gallon by 1985."

European cars overall are smaller and lighter in weight than American-built cars. As a result, the average fuel economy across Europe is around 25 miles per gallon today. U.S. carmakers have a far more difficult job ahead of them to meet the higher mileage requirements of the mid-1980s.

Looking ahead, Mr. Ford expects total world retail truck and car sales this year to hit 35 million units, up about 3 per cent from 1976.

THE Sunday Crossword

(formerly The New York Herald Tribune Crossword)
Edited by Herb Ettenson

TIMBER!
By Nancy W. Atkinson

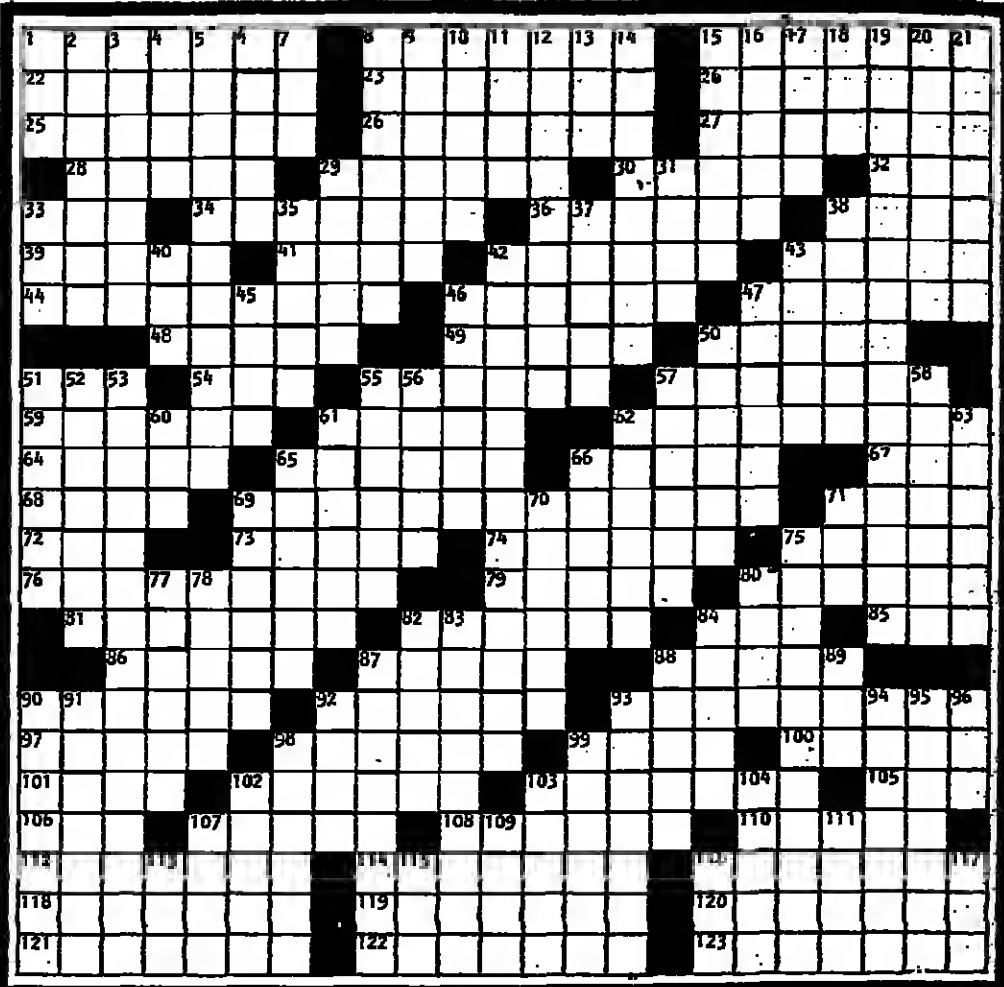
- ACROSS
- 1 "War and Peace"
 - 8 Remote-control toy
 - 15 Tableland
 - 22 One from Juneau
 - 23 Test, in one way
 - 24 Amelia --
 - 25 Seafarer
 - 26 Hun king et al.
 - 27 Auto worker
 - 28 Malice
 - 29 Kind of board
 - 30 Patti and Geraldine
 - 32 Fr. pron.
 - 33 Bontok village division
 - 34 Large holdings
 - 36 Illegal gifts
 - 38 Relate
 - 39 Israelite leader
 - 41 State
 - 42 Sculled
 - 43 Of a city minutes
 - 44 Curtain materials
 - 46 Branched
 - 47 Site of Brunel
 - 48 Writers of potboilers
 - 49 Woods
 - 50 Passengers et al.
 - 51 Ledger items: abbr.
 - 54 Varangians
 - 55 Squirrels
 - 57 out (was used up)
 - 59 Squash and melon
 - 61 Wooded area
 - 62 Conductor's cry
 - 64 Farm areas
 - 65 Soft wood
 - 66 Boston player
 - 67 Kind of line
 - 68 Eng. dandy
 - 69 Certain exams
 - 71 Laze around
 - 72 Nail or nob
 - 73 Stares at
 - 74 Greetings
 - 75 NYC mayor
 - 76 Deiver feat
 - 78 Of sound
 - 80 Inferior
 - 81 Holy
 - 82 Derk-haired one
 - 84 Jacket or soup
 - 86 MDe
 - 86 Fads
 - 87 Vandyke, for one
 - 88 Comes close
 - 90 Untruthism, in Britain
 - 92 Clears up
 - 93 Place for decisions
 - 97 Convex molding
 - 98 Norman
 - 103 Convent room
 - 100 Twinned crystal
 - 101 Raouls
 - 102 Library cubicle
 - 103 -- order (opens a meeting)
 - 105 Aves.
 - 106 Young man
 - 107 Frost
 - 108 Annie --
 - 110 Sioux
 - 112 "Just -- chance"
 - 114 Certain disparer
 - 116 Give out, in a way
 - 118 Ice remover
 - 119 Rehearsed quickly
 - 120 Buccaneers
 - 121 Parts of sonnets
 - 122 Boxes for ceramics
 - 123 Vocal fault-finders

- DOWN
- 1 Medieval ship
 - 2 Game, of a kind
 - 3 Larval amphibian
 - 4 Holly
 - 5 Cogseters, of a kind
 - 6 Nathan and family
 - 7 Insect
 - 8 Ancient spices
 - 9 More supple
 - 10 Premier and Kruger
 - 11 Threesome
 - 12 Place for notices
 - 13 -- glance
 - 14 Breathers
 - 15 Scored, in cribbage
 - 16 Roman guardian spirits
 - 17 Mars
 - 18 Pronoun variant
 - 19 New England etc.
 - 20 Small spaces
 - 21 Fr. painter
 - 29 Puts away
 - 31 Retired
 - 33 Gram. case
 - 35 Armor
 - 37 Cleans up the lawn
 - 38 Matador
 - 40 Bn. suff.
 - 42 Indian feat
 - 43 Bib. place
 - 45 Army men, for short
 - 46 WW II compound
 - 47 Some Fillipinos
 - 50 Chts
 - 51 Christie of whodunits
 - 52 Protected places
 - 53 Some water enthusiasts
 - 55 Turk. cape
 - 56 Green
 - 57 Noun form
 - 58 Builder of castles, at times
 - 60 Ump's relative
 - 61 Fortified
 - 62 Buddhist monk: var.
 - 63 Yields
 - 65 Fearsome things
 - 66 Dan or Pat
 - 69 Flow blade
 - 70 Light-haired ones
 - 71 August sign
 - 75 Engines of "sorts (with "out")
 - 77 Feline sounds: var.
 - 78 Scottish county
 - 80 Fruit
 - 82 Beauty threat var.
 - 84 Resounds
 - 87 Roomers
 - 88 -- prosequi
 - 89 Spanish title: abbr.
 - 90 Uncertain
 - 91 Fiction type
 - 92 Mex. Indian
 - 93 Misrepresenters
 - 94 Sheathed
 - 95 Senior citizen
 - 96 My: Fr.
 - 98 Road workers
 - 99 Rush wildly
 - 102 Mark of insertion
 - 103 Bend
 - 104 Japanese gateway
 - 107 Fool
 - 109 Wide-eyed
 - 111 Saxon moneys
 - 113 Small rug
 - 115 Pasture sound
 - 116 Brochure: abbr.
 - 117 Letter

- Diagramless
- 19 X 19, by H.M. Ross
- 1 Rooter
 - 4 King of Norway
 - 6 Ascends
 - 8 Denoted
 - 9 Campus org.
 - 13 Health
 - 16 Piece for staccatos
 - 19 Mother of Apollo
 - 20 Graceful bird
 - 21 Faucet
 - 23 Black
 - 24 Beer mug
 - 25 At which time
 - 26 Engine
 - 28 Pays attention to
 - 29 Marriage symbol
 - 30 Blue pencils
 - 31 Picnic pest
 - 32 Deep longing
 - 33 Gr. letter
 - 34 Hockey star
 - 36 Immerse
 - 38 States further
 - 41 Possessive
 - 43 Once around the track
 - 45 -- West
 - 46 Telons
 - 48 "The way we --"
 - 49 Steeple
 - 51 Green onion
 - 53 Large land mass
 - 54 Sheikh's ladies
 - 55 Mata --
 - 56 Negligent
 - 58 Too bad!
 - 59 Edison's middle name
 - 60 Radiate
 - 61 -- Brooks
 - 62 Judge
 - 63 Prison sentences
 - 67 Path
 - 68 Structure for grain
 - 69 Speck

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES

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- 62 Buddhist monk: var.
- 63 Yields
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- 109 Wide-eyed
- 111 Saxon moneys
- 113 Small rug
- 115 Pasture sound
- 116 Brochure: abbr.
- 117 Letter

- CRYPTOGRAMS
1. "NIGHT OWL, LPZL AWI YT OWL NIGHTG." LFT YRTZX A-TATG NIGHT FZG LWRG LFT FIOH NIXA. --By Barbara J. Russ
2. BLAA YBCEMZ ICEMZ IWAO ZUN BLOW ZUNS SNEEZ EUYW ICOOLAZ? --By India M. Sperry
3. DHAWL LAD YVISOWL LEIUUVU WHY U,VVU REVISED OW REIUUVU. --By E.L. Livingston
4. ZIGCU COSTUF FUNNY BLIF BU YLEONSH'F IDDEWS. GUF SEUYH'F LENS OY DWEZ COGAHT AF. --By Charles Espory

- Last Week's Cryptograms
- Huge guy gave toy hare to brave boy.
 - We'll surely have solar energy when someone devises a way for oil companies to get a depletion allowance for the sun.
 - Slugging fighter and vanquished foe did not have equal rights.
 - Ashtrays catch stray ash.

Alaska tanker safety debate is underway

By Judith Frutig
The Christian Science Monitor
News Service
WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Fueled by continuing publicity

over tanker accidents and by growing concern among Washington, D.C. legislators, a U.S. Coast Guard probe into Alaskan oil tanker safety is under way in Juneau.

At issue is the adequacy of industry-set standards covering tanker design and navigational methods. The focus is on American ships scheduled to sail the West Coast oil-tanker route.

But the outcome, according to concerned representatives of industry, government and environmental organizations, could increase shipping costs, and in so doing cause higher U.S. consumer prices for North Slope gasoline and home heating oil.

The tanker design standards involve the hull thickness and maneuverability of the vessels. State officials in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California have voiced concern, particularly over the interim fleet -- comprising mostly older ships -- that is being assembled by five oil companies.

That fleet is being mustered in the wake of growing uncertainties over the destination of the rich, Arctic Slope crude oil.

A study compiled by Alaska officials indicates that the oil industry promised more than a year ago that West Coast supertankers slated to transport oil from the southern pipeline terminals at Valdez would be "thoroughly modern and unique." Despite this, the study says, most of the ships would pass only minimal design and safety standards.

"The oil companies are not prepared," says Alaska pipeline coordinator Charles A. Champion in a telephone interview. "All the things we're asking for are already included in LNG (liquid natural gas) tankers. And yet crude-oil transportation people refuse to consider safeguards. All we're

doing is attempting to bring the tanker industry into the 20th century."

Spokesmen for the five oil companies involved in the initial tanker operation -- Atlantic Richfield, Standard Oil of California, Standard Oil of Ohio (Sohio), Exxon and Mobil have issued statements saying their ships are safe, maneuverable and up to U.S. Coast Guard standards.

Under federal law, Alaskan oil must be transported to the lower states in American-registered ships. But in another set of hearings in Los Angeles -- probing whether state authorities there should bring California standards up to the tougher laws already in effect in Alaska -- Rear Admiral Robert Price, commandant of the

U.S. Coast Guard's 11th District, has challenged the assumption that tanker-safety problems are caused by unseaworthy foreign flag vessels.

The Liberian fleet, he said, which currently transports 94 per cent of all imported U.S. oil, is younger and more efficient than the U.S. tanker fleet.

The question of navigational safety standards involves a section of the Trans-Alaska shipping routes known as the Valdez Narrows, a treacherous 2 1/2-mile bend between Valdez and Prince William Sound. Tankers proceeding through the narrows must perform a long, slow turn, a maneuver complicated by a mid-channel obstruction known as "Middle Rock."

Oil company experts say that the channel depth, which ranges from 350 to 700 ft, coupled with Coast Guard regulations, specifying that by one tanker may sail channel at a time, virtually guarantees a high level of safety.

But state and Coast Guard officials counter that the narrows are frequently subject to snowstorms, rain squalls, gale-force winds and avy fog that at times blot even radar readings.

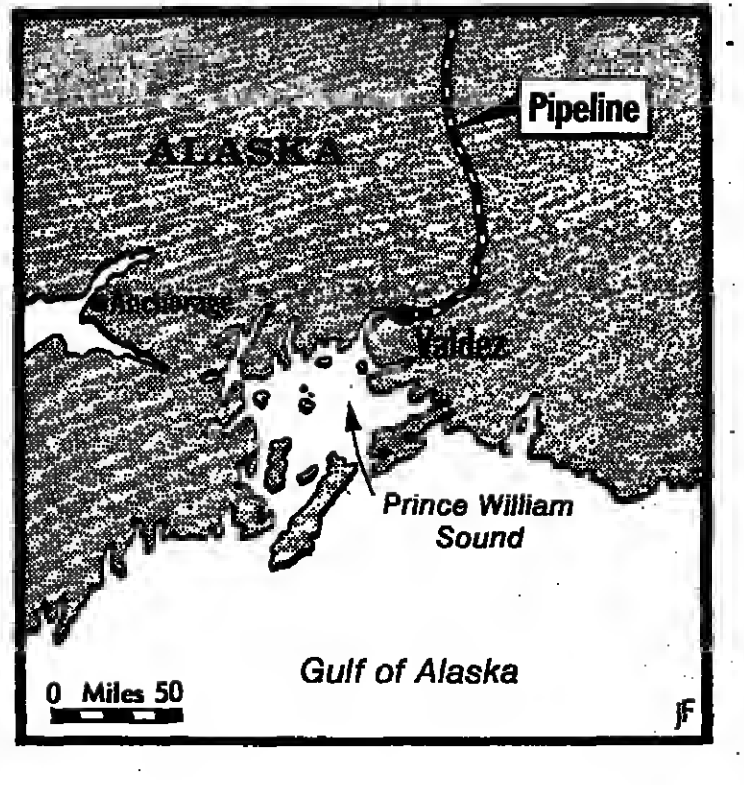
The major questions discussed in the Juneau hearings include:

-- Tanker pilot training: officials say that pilots must complete 12 trips through the narrows before actually taking the oil of a loaded supertanker. Despite this, pilot masters were not yet begun their site training.

-- Use of tugboats: officials and environmentalists are in favour of tugboats coring tankers through narrows. Industry spokesmen are on record as firmly inst.

-- Agreement over how severe weather conditions become before the port area is closed. This is considered a crucial point because pipeline profits depend on steady tanker traffic.

-- Effect of "Middle Rock" on navigational safety: Du a computer simulation test Holland recently, tanker pilots tended to over-compensate the rock in several cases, actually ran the ship aground on the shoals, an act which could have meant a huge and costly oil spill. On April 1, the five oil companies are scheduled to launch their first test-run of supertankers through the narrows. The ship will be a 120,000-ton vessel provided by Atlantic Richfield.



Beauty consultant Miss Nahla Khalifeh will leave for Paris Feb. 14 on a two-week visit at the invitation of the

Harriet Hubbard Ayer
BEAUTY INSTITUTE
During her stay in the French capital, Miss Khalifeh will look over the most advanced methods in make-up and facial treatment.
Salon Anis, Jordan Insurance Bldg., 1st Circle, Jabal Amman, Tel. 21107.

HINWEIS
Von Dienstag, dem 8. Februar 1977 bis Samstag, dem 12. Februar 1977 bleibt die Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland für den Besucher-verkehr geschlossen.
Am Samstag, dem 12. Februar 1977 ist die Botschaft für dringende Fälle in der Zeit von 9.00-12.00 Uhr geöffnet.

NOTICE
The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany shall remain closed for visitors from Tuesday, 8th February 1977, until Saturday, 12th February 1977, when visits on that day (Saturday 12/2/1977) will be limited to emergency cases from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Handwritten Arabic text: هوزا صنداقه

Spain increases military budget to curb armed forces' discontent

MADRID, Feb. 5 (R). — The Spanish government increased the military budget today in an apparent move to curb discontent in the armed forces after recent political violence.

Ten people, including three policemen, were killed and a senior army general kidnapped in last week's violence which the government denounced as a plot to provoke the armed forces and block Spain's transition to democracy.

A royal decree in the official gazette promised funds to complete the armed forces' 1976-1979 modernisation plan, extended for another three years due to rising costs.

The decree did not fix the amount but said the government would spend what was necessary to realise the plan designed to bring the Spanish armed forces up to NATO standards.

Spain does not belong to NATO, although the United States and some other countries favour its entry into alliance following the death of Gen. Franco.

Only three weeks ago, the government gave the armed forces an additional 4,530 million pesetas (\$41 million) to buy new equipment despite an economic recession.

The decree was signed by King Juan Carlos, at the government's recommendation, on Jan. 25 — the day after urban guerrillas kidnapped Lt. Gen. Emilio Villacusa Quilis, President of the Supreme Council of Military Justice.

The kidnapping angered Spanish generals who had already been grumbling that military needs were being neglected in Spain's rush to dismantle the political system of the late Gen. Franco.

A navy captain was sacked as vice director of the Naval Warfare School early this week after a public row with the first deputy premier, Lt. Gen. Manuel Gutierrez Mellado.

He had shouted "honour is more important than discipline" when Gen. Gutierrez

Mellado tried to silence military men chanting anti-government slogans at the funeral of the three policemen shot by urban guerrillas.

King Juan Carlos today saw the Second Deputy Premier, Senor Alfonso Osorio Garcia, amid press speculation on an impending cabinet reshuffle.

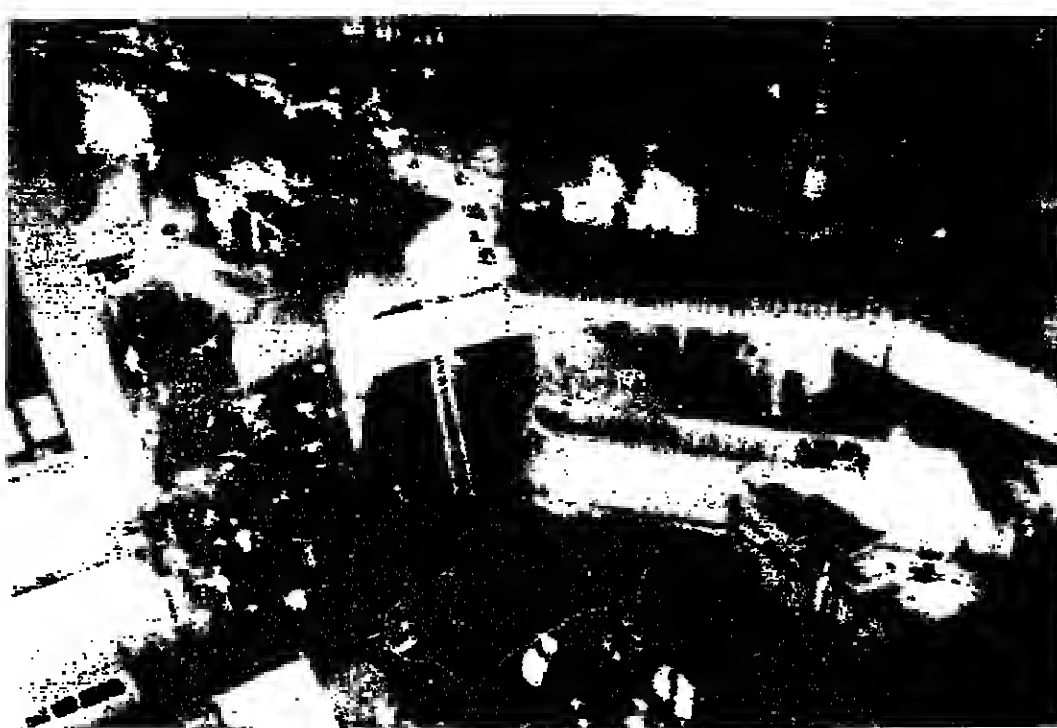
Among the possible changes mentioned was putting an army general in charge of the Interior Ministry to crack down on urban guerrillas.

Opposition sources said they expected Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez to change three or four ministers — but not immediately because he did not want to create the impression that the guerrillas had succeeded in provoking a government crisis.

Senor Suarez has taken the line that the best way to deal with the outbreak of extremist violence is to remain calm and press on with democratic parliamentary elections in the spring.

Senor Manuel Fraga, Interior Minister until last July, told a press conference that the government was in a delicate situation and measures taken by the government so far to halt the violence were not enough.

The government has banned demonstrations, given police broad powers of search and ordered strict controls on gun permits.



OFF THE TRACKS — Elevated train cars lie on the street in downtown Chicago Friday night following the crash of two commuter trains. (AP wirephoto).

Kenya voices its concern at Tanzania's closure of border

NAIROBI, Feb. 5 (R). — Kenya today voiced concern at Tanzania's closure of the border between the two countries which tourist operators said had stranded hundreds of Kenyans and foreigners in Tanzania.

The Tanzanian government stopped all movements across the frontier yesterday in the wake of a row over the grounding of the debt-ridden East African Airways (EAA) which

is owned by Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

Kenya said Tanzania had ignored a request for an explanation of the border closure.

A statement called for the immediate release of all Kenyans and Kenyan aircraft, vehicles and property in Tanzania.

Kenyan border posts were reported to have opened normally today but Tanzania authorities were refusing to allow travellers in or out of the country.

Tanzania Foreign Ministry officials have said "stricter controls" were being enforced in the frontier area. Kenyan-registered aircraft have been banned from flying over Tanzania and authorities there were reported to have impounded the Kenyan tourist buses.

The Kenyan government statement said: "In the interests

of tranquility, good neighbourliness and the welfare of the people of the two nations, there is need for promoting measures conducive to the stability of the region as a whole."

Tanzania has accused Kenya of unilaterally grounding East African Airways last week after the airline became unable to pay its fuel bills.

Kenya has since set up its own national carrier, Kenya Airways, whose maiden flight arrived in Nairobi today from London.

The leased Boeing 707 was greeted by thousands of people, including a delegation from the ruling Kenyan African National Union (KANU).

The airliner later left for Mombasa on the Indian Ocean coast. It was due to return later in the day and leave for London this evening.

S. Philippine rebels get amnesty call

MANILA, Feb. 5 (AFP). — President Ferdinand Marcos today proclaimed a conditional amnesty for Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines, on the eve of crucial talks to end the autonomist revolt.

The amnesty offer, contained in a presidential martial law decree, applies to 13 provinces and 11 cities in the Mindanao-Sulu region where a ceasefire has been declared, temporarily halting four years of fighting between government forces and Muslim rebels.

Last night a government panel left for Tripoli, Libya, to resume negotiations with the rebel Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) on a peace agreement in the south.

The talks, to start Monday under the mediation of Libya and the Islamic Conference, will work out the details of a proposed autonomous Muslim region to be set up in Mindanao-Sulu 811 kms south of Manila.

Defence Undersecretary Carmelo Barbero, head of the government negotiating panel in

the Tripoli talks, last night estimated 21,111 people had died in fighting in the south since 1972, including 11,111 civilians and 10,000 combatants.

He said that, because of the heavy loss on lives and property, it would be "almost criminal" for the government and the MNLF not to come to a final settlement.

Under a tentative agreement reached in a first round of talks in Tripoli last December, a Muslim autonomous region is to be set up out of 13 provinces with substantial Muslim populations.

Mr. Marcos said however that a plebiscite would first be held in the provinces to find out if the people wanted to join the autonomous region, which would have courts, internal security forces and financial, administrative and educational systems of its own.

Today's amnesty decree was aimed primarily at hard-core elements of the MNLF — officially estimated to number 8,011 — who have remained in the hills.

U.K. football round-up

Liverpool strides on to 2nd championship

LONDON, Feb. 5 (R). — Liverpool strode on towards their second league championship in a row with a 4-1 win over Birmingham today.

With Ipswich, their chief pursuers, kept idle by the mud, Liverpool stretched their lead to three points — though Ipswich have four matches in hand and Manchester City, bracketed second with them, have three matches in hand.

Liverpool were behind in the first minute, thanks to a typical piece of opportunism by Kenny Burns. But a penalty by Phil Neal put them level and two goals by John Toshack took them ahead before Steve Heighway completed the scoring.

Manchester City kept themselves in contention with a 2-0 win at Stoke. With neighbouring Manchester United maintaining their revival with a 3-1 win over Derby, it was a good day for Manchester.

An Andy Gray header — his 24th goal of the season — put Villa on the path to a 2-0 win over Everton; and Middle-sbrough, thanks to two David Mills goals in two minutes, beat Tottenham similarly.

Arsenal alone of the chasing group lost ground. They played a goalless draw at home with bottom-placed Sunderland.

There was more action off the ball than on it when a youth ran across the pitch and lashed at two Sunderland players before police moved in.

Chelsea consolidated their lead in the second division with a 1-0 win at Carlisle despite losing top scorer Steve Finnieston early on with a broken jaw. Bolton flopped 3-0 at Millwall and weakened their hold on second place.

Wolves beat Nottingham Forest 2-1 in the match for current third place in division two. Willie Carr put them ahead, and Larry Lloyx, with a hapless header into his own net, made it two. Substitute Bob Chapman got a late goal but Wolves stretched their unbeaten league and cup run to 11 matches.

With Hereford and Orient out of action because of their own muddy pitches, the bottom of the table has an unreal look. Burnley and Plymouth suffered 2-0 defeats and, like Carlisle, missed the chance to put clear of the relegation area.

Brighton, fired by the exciting young Peter Ward's 22nd goal of the season, beat Preston 2-0 but Mansfield also had two goals to spare against close challengers Rotherham and retain second place, four points behind.

In division four Cambridge dropped a home point to Exeter but Colchester scored the only goal against Rochdale and nudged ahead of the chasing group.

Moscow: We only seek arms parity

MOSCOW, Feb. 5 (R). — The Soviet Union today published its first detailed public rebuttal of charges that it was striving for a lead in the arms race, and called on the United States to move quickly towards a new strategic arms limitation (SALT) agreement.

Dr. Georoy Arbatov, a senior Soviet official who plays an important role in formulating policy towards the United States, appealed to President Carter's administration to reject what he called "the big lie" that the Kremlin was seeking military superiority.

Dr. Arbatov, in an unusual frank comment on alleged Soviet Union strategy, argued that the Russian build-up in recent years aimed at eliminating the advantage held by the U.S. in 1965.

And, in a clear reference to fears of a danger to China, he declared the Soviet Union had to meet a massive standing army "close to which there is from only friendly relations."

Dr. Arbatov, Director, Moscow Institute for the Study of the U.S. and Canadian Soviet weapon developments, including that of long bombers and multiple warheads (MIRVs), had been in response to U.S. innovations.

His article, published in the Communist Party daily but clearly directed towards an external rather than an audience, insisted that powers had now established the approximate parity ded for under bilateral means.

The article appeared after new U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, in Moscow at the end of 1976, had declared that Washington was hoping to move the negotiations out of the present stalemate in the future.

But Dr. Arbatov insisted there was some Soviet mistrust over the prospect of an agreement, which he was vital before new destabilised the situation, cause of pressure on President Carter from the military "enemies of détente."

The Soviet official, a member of the policy-setting Committee of the Communist Party, said rightwing forces in the U.S. who were seeking the existence of a threat, were aiming at the new administrative Congress.

Survivors scrambled from the wreckage and ran into the snow-covered streets for help at nearby bars, restaurants and stores where emergency medical centres were set up.

Cyprus holds 5 for murder

NICOSIA, Feb. 5 (AFP). — Five persons arrested here yesterday in connection with the 1974 slaying of U.S. Ambassador Roger Davies and his secretary were today remanded in custody for eight days.

A sixth suspect, former police Sergeant Yannakis Ktimatis, was already serving a three-year prison sentence for unlawful possession of firearms.

The five arrested yesterday were charged in a court this morning and held to be held for eight

years after the killing of a diplomat — issued six warrants for the Greek-Cypriots thought members of the EOKA movement that seeks the independence of President Makarios.

Well-informed sources said two other warrants also have been put out, in one for the arrest of a now away from the island.

The five arrested yesterday were charged in a court this morning and held to be held for eight



SUSPECTS — Two of the Greek-Cypriot suspects held by authorities in connection with the slaying of the late U.S. Ambassador Davies are seen under police guard Saturday. The Neoptolemos Letifis (moustache) and Loizos Sava. (AP wire)

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

BELGRADE, Feb. 5 (AFP). — Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Political Department, left here last night after a 24-hour visit during which he conferred three times with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Mincic. The talks were mainly about the latest moves towards resumption of the Geneva conference on the Middle East, leading to a communique. The PLO and Yugoslav points of view on the Middle East and the settlement of the Palestinian problem were "perfectly concordant", the communique said.

CHICAGO, Feb. 5 (AFP). — A Chicago secretary who got in trouble because she refused to make coffee for her bosses is being sued for sexual discrimination. Secretary Iris Rivera, who a coffee drinker herself, explained that making coffee for male lawyers she worked for was not part of her job.

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5 (R). — Israel's prison population rose by 10 to 5,852 last year, the commissioner of prisons has said. Mr. Haim Levi told a meeting of prison officers yesterday the majority of prisoners — 3,227 — were Arabs jailed for "security" offences, an increase of 502 in 1975.

TAIPEI, Feb. 5 (AFP). — A 30-year-old woman was killed in Chinese Communist bombardment of the nationalist-held island of Quemoy last Thursday, according to reports received here today. The woman was reportedly hit in the face by a believed to contain propaganda pamphlets, while carrying one-year-old son to an air-raid shelter. The child was unhurt.

ATHENS, Feb. 5 (R). — Offices of the Greek Communist Party were damaged in bomb attacks in three areas of Athens today. There were no casualties and the attackers escaped.

HARTOUM, Feb. 5 (R). — Sudanese authorities today arrested a sergeant alleged to be the ringleader of last Wednesday's rebellion at Juba, capital of the Sudan's southern province, which 10 people were killed, the Sudan News Agency reports. The arrest of Sergeant Paul Fock follows that of 18 others the attempted seizure of Juba airport by a local air detachment.

ECONOMIC & BUSINESS NEWS

Bahraini-dinar loan arranged

BAHRAIN, Feb. 5 (R) — The first international loan denominated in Bahraini currency has been launched for the Philippines by an American finance company, Kidder, Peabody Incorporated, a company spokesman said here today. The eight million dinars (£12 million) loan issue has three of Bahrain's new offshore banks as co-managers, according to Kidder, Peabody's Mr. Mahdi Tanamli, who said the loan agreement was expected to be signed on Feb. 16.

Mr. Tanamli told Reuters the issue price would be set on signing and that the issue had already attracted considerable demand although it was only put on offer yesterday.

Italy adopts tax package designed to check prices

ROME, Feb. 5 (R). — The Italian government has announced a 1,400 billion lire (£330 million) tax package designed to curb labour costs and help industrialists hold down their prices.

Announced last night in a bid to check soaring inflation, the measure is intended to enable employers to reduce their contributions to employees' social security benefits and thus keep down their prices.

The loss to social security funds which this cut-back im-

plies is to be made up by increased taxes.

At a seven-hour cabinet meeting last night, ministers decided to increase the basic value-added tax rate from 12 to 14 per cent and to standardise the rate for luxury goods at 35 per cent.

Ministers said this would reduce the estimated rise in labour costs by about five per cent and add just over one per cent to consumer prices.

The government hopes to reduce the potentially inflationary effect of the price rise by ensuring that they are not in-

cluded in a calculations for automatic wage increases pegged to the rise in the cost of living.

Government ministers and industrialists believe automatic wage rises, calculated every three months, are responsible for much of Italy's 20 per cent inflation rate.

But trade union leaders have refused to accept any cut-back in these rises except for high income earners.

Government ministers decided to reduce employers' contributions to social security schemes as the only way of cutting labour costs other than curbing wage increases, a policy which had been firmly opposed by the country's powerful, communist-dominated trade union movement.

Observers said last night's package, worked out after a lengthy meeting the previous day with parliamentary leaders of all parties supporting Signor Giulio Andreotti's minority government, appeared to be the government's final bid to bring the economic crisis under control.

But doubts remained in some quarters about whether any economic package could be fully successful if it left the system of automatic three-monthly wage increases basically untouched.

Italian newspaper commentators today reached with scepticism to the government's new austerity package, expressing fears that it might accelerate rather than halt inflation.

The influential Milan daily Corriere Della Sera said "the government decisions seem clearly insufficient," and added that they might be effective only in the long term.

"The tax increases, however, will prove inflationary within a short time," the newspaper said.

Mr. Burns also said he did not believe that the weather would have any lasting economic repercussions, and that the United States was likely to experience solid economic growth this year. As he has repeatedly done in the past, Mr. Burns warned that the threat of inflation must be taken seriously.

And he paid tribute to the president for putting together a "smaller, more prudent" scheme than the vigorously expansionist programme many quarters pressed him to adopt.

Mr. Burns' views may have little influence on the liberal Democrat congressmen, but the feeling in political quarters here was that they might help the administration secure the support of a number of Republicans.

Their votes might offset those of the expansionist wing of the Democratic majority and help Mr. Carter carry the day.

Cold weather hampers Carter effort to boost U.S. economy

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (AFP). — The disastrous cold spell in the United States has made it harder for the U.S. administration to "sell" President Jimmy Carter's moderate economic growth programme to Congress.

The cold has caused a partial paralysis of the big industrial areas in the East and the Great Lakes region, where thousands of factories have had to close down for lack of gas.

This has provided fresh fuel for the critics of the programme, who, like the powerful AFL-CIO union, consider that injecting \$31,000 million into the economy over two years would just not be enough to achieve a satisfactory growth rate.

Senator Hubert Humphrey, a staunch champion of expansionist policies, has affirmed, citing a Congress Library study as evidence, that the increase in the fuel bill because of the cold will alone cost an average of \$139 a household, or some \$8,400 million in all.

In addition, \$1,600 million in wages would be lost as a result of the cold wave, which would thus cost Americans somewhere around \$10,000 million total, according to Mr. Humphrey's reckoning.

This would be two-thirds of the amount that the Carter administration intends to pump into the economic circuits this year to encourage growth.

Administration spokesmen, including Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal and Charles Schultz, chief of the White House economic advisers, have sought to persuade congressmen during hearings before various congressional panels this week that it would be unwise to boost the lump sum of about \$15,500 million proposed by Mr. Carter for 1977.

However, their statements have appeared somewhat contradictory on some points.

Mr. Schultz said that it would be possible to boost the aid flow at a later date, when the economic effects of the cold wave had been assessed more precisely.

Mr. Blumenthal, on the other

band, said he did not believe any additional incentives would be necessary because economic recovery had proved better than anticipated in December.

Mr. Arthur Burns, head of the Federal Reserve System, whose term in this office will expire early next year, emerged Friday as a somewhat reluctant ally of the White House.

Giving testimony before the House Banking Committee, he praised Mr. Carter's programme and criticised it at the same time. While pledging support he implied that he was not convinced of its necessity. "It is not clear to me that any stimulus is required," he said. "I would have preferred to wait a little."

Mr. Burns also said he did not believe that the weather would have any lasting economic repercussions, and that the United States was likely to experience solid economic growth this year. As he has repeatedly done in the past, Mr. Burns warned that the threat of inflation must be taken seriously.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (AFP). — Unemployment in the U.S. fell from 7.8 to 7.3 per cent between December and January, but statisticians appear unsure of the reason. Jobless fell 560,000 to seven million while the officially available workforce dropped by 440,000. It is this latter reduction which the Department of Labour is unable to explain. A department spokesman said that, due to the cold wave and the deterioration on the labour market, some people out of a job may have given up looking for work.

LONDON, Feb. 5 (AFP). — More new cars were sold in Britain last month than in any month since last July, the Car Manufacturers' Association announced today. But sales were still 13 per cent lower than during January last year. The most popular foreign-made cars last month were Ford (8,299 of them were purchased), Fiat (6,597), Renault (5,109) and Datsun (4,563). A total of 114,096 cars were bought. Foreign cars accounted for 43 per cent of that — the lowest percentage since July but higher than in the preceding January, when only 32.5 per cent of cars sold were foreign.

VIENNA, Feb. 5 (AFP). — Loans totalling \$33.8 million have been made to 10 developing countries by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), it was announced here. Beneficiaries are: Rwanda (\$1.7 million), Senegal (3.4m), Chad (2.4m), Ghana (7.8m), Laos (2.15m), Ethiopia (4.8m), Sierra Leone (2m), Niger (2.9m), Burundi (1.7m) and Cameroun (4.95m). Since December, more than \$150 million have been advanced to developing countries by OPEC.

TREASURE HOUSE

JARAL AMMAN — THIRD CIRCLE

Wide variety of towels, bedsheets, blankets and Cannon bedcovers.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "مركز الخدمات"